



LACATech Meeting Minutes – January 6, 2010

Roll Call

The LACATech meeting was called to order at 8:35am on January 6, 2010. The following members were present for the roll call: Michele Berry (Heath), Tim Owen (Lakewood), Sondra Wilson (Newark), Larry Smith (North Fork), Beth Rowley (Northridge), Harold Gottke (Tri-Valley), Sally Sperry (Mount Vernon), Denny Souder (Granville), and Jon Bowers (LACA). Gerry Cannon (CTEC) arrived at 8:40, Chris Cashdollar (West Muskingum) at 8:55, and Verne Benson (Licking Heights) arrived at 9:05. Representatives from LCESC, Maysville and Southwest Licking were unable to attend.

Others attending were Chip Zolman (Mount Vernon), Shawn Wilkoski (Northridge), Tom Jacob (Excel Academy), Brian Gottfried (Excel Academy), Jill Merry (St. Francis), Dave Stenson (St. Francis), Jeff Davis (LACA), Dave Stein (LACA) and Chad Carson (LACA).

Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

- 10-13 It was moved by Sally Sperry and seconded by Larry Smith to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2009 LACATech meeting. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

ITSCO Update

David Hayward gave an ITSCO update. Please direct any questions about the ITSCO update to David at david@itsco.org or visit the ITSCO website at <http://www.itsco.org/>

eTech Ohio Update

Quentin Briggs provided an eTech Ohio update via conference call. Please direct any questions about the eTech Ohio update to Quentin at Quentin.Briggs@etech.ohio.gov or visit the eTech Ohio website at <http://www.etech.ohio.gov/>.

Ohio K-12 Network Updates

All ITCs (K-12 network) and higher education are being merged onto shared network hardware, rather than having two sets of hardware to run them as two separate networks. The manager of this current higher ed network is OAR.NET (Ohio Academic Resources Network). LACA will be moving over hopefully before the end of January. We are hoping the slow network speeds between ITCs will be resolved by this move, at which point we be able to move forward with the replication of backup data to the OECN Disaster Recovery site and Email Archiving projects.

Along those lines, LACA will be upgrading the Storserver backup system starting January 6 to newer faster hardware. This will help us to replicate data to the DR site more quickly, once the network issues have been resolved.

Last month, OMERESA (a neighboring ITC) had to use the OECN Disaster Recovery site while a power outage had their primary site down. They processed payroll from the DR site, and provided proof that the DR site really works. The lesson learned from this is having an up-to-date phone list of district contacts, as email will be unavailable in the event of a total disaster at LACA.

Video Services

LACA is current providing Mandarin Chinese classes to West Muskingum, Tri-Valley, and Heath City through the FLAP grant. We had a professional evaluator provide evaluation of the classes and the feedback was very positive. We will be adding two more districts next year (Northridge and either Newark Digital or Southwest Licking) and will be running Level 1 and Level 2 Mandarin Chinese classes. In the 3rd year of the project there will be Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 classes.

With some of the grant money, LACA has purchased an RSS4000 IP VCR. It records the classes each day, providing a way for the students to go back and review them. Even on snow days, the classes take place whether students are present or not, and are recorded. This was necessary because the participating schools are scattered around the state, and if there are snow closings or delays at one school but not at the others, there would be no way to re-arrange the schedule to accommodate this. The RSS could be used to capture LACA meetings as well for review by people who could not attend.

EETT (Enhancing Education Through Technology) grants are available for eligible buildings. The grant is through eTech, and is around \$50,000 for purchasing equipment, services, maintenance, and professional development. If you have eligible buildings, LACA encourages you to apply for this grant. Newark Digital, Newark, and Mount Vernon are the only eligible districts within our consortium.

WAN Updates

In order to get our Time-Warner circuits onto a state-term contract, there will be a one-time \$1500 installation fee per circuit. You will save money over time, as the state-term contract pricing is much cheaper. You cannot move circuits until the end of the current contract with LACA, unless you are increasing your service (ex: 10mb to 20mb, and pay the \$1500 charge). There will be a hardware refresh on the Time-Warner owned hardware for circuits that are charged the \$1500 and moved to the state-term contract.

Technical Services Update

Exchange 2007 Upgrade – The Exchange 2007 upgrade is fully complete. We have worked out all known bugs and issues. After the move, the 30-day deletion of Inbox and Sent Items was not on. This will be reactivated on Monday January 11, 2010. Note that deleted items will be moved to Inbox and Sent Items sub-folders under Deleted Items, not under System Cleanup like the old Exchange 2003 system did.

Chad Carson provided a reminder that you can use your own local domains for email, even if your mail is housed at LACA. We can use domains that you have registered as well, not just the K12.OH.US domains.

It was asked if calendars could be shared through OWA, and they can. With the Messageware add-ons for 2007, you can do the sharing of a calendar as well as the opening of a shared calendar. Previously in Messageware 2003, you could only open a calendar, but you had to do the sharing through Outlook, not OWA.

Windows 7 Support – Nearly every LACA application is now being supported on Windows 7, other than the SIRS client used by the media specialists to manage the libraries. The entire LACA staff has Windows 7 on their workstations and has found no issues with the software we support.

New Password Policy – Chad asked if there were any issues with the strong password policy that was enacted since the last LACATech meeting. The technology coordinators were asked if they were in favor of an annual acceptance of the LACA AUP, and potentially their own district AUPs. The question was asked if acceptance of the LACA AUP could be forced on a district-by-district basis, and the answer is yes. Discussion of this proposal took place. It was moved by Tim Owen and seconded by Sally Sperry to require annual acceptance of the LACA Acceptable Use Policy on a chosen date at the beginning of each school year. A vote of approval was taken. It was asked if shutting off a LACA account also shuts down access to the HR Kiosk, and it does not. The HR Kiosk is a separate system outside of LACA, and that account has no ties to the LACA account.

Other Discussion

DASL Update – ITC Directors for DASL sites are negotiating with Software Answers to take over development of DASL. The goal is to reduce development costs and end up with a more stable product. Integration with DASL and Progress Book will be eliminated since it will essentially be one product. Software Answers will be able to market the product outside of Ohio, and the ITCs will be paid a royalty for sales. The ITCs will retain control to steer the direction of the product development. Barb Wesley, LACA's Student Services Support Coordinator and primary DASL support person, will be leaving LACA on February 5, 2010. It was asked if there were other products on the horizon that may be a successor to DASL. DASL has been very flexible in allowing workarounds when the software could not perform a task, and we do not see anything replacing it anytime soon. The look of the software will evolve over the next few years, but we do not see it being replaced.

D3A2 Update – Training scheduled for January and February. The initial pilot teams will be brought in for this training, and it will be up to each district how to roll it out to the rest of the staff. Account management is a separate system so it will be separate accounts from the current LACA email/progress book accounts. Account requests for D3A2 access must be entered through LAMA. The three levels are DISTRICT, BUILDING, and TEACHER. District sees all information for the district, building grants for all teachers and students in that building, and teacher is based on testing pre-identification labels. They can also see current students in their classes for the current year. Name changes within the D3A2 accounts are difficult to do, as the username for D3A2 is the email address, and cannot be changed once it is created. A new account has to be created from scratch if the name needs to change.

Group Purchasing Committee Update – Safari Montage is an alternative to United Streaming that we looked at last year, but was too late as many United Streaming contracts had already been signed. No districts in our consortium are currently using Safari Montage. Another ITC (LEECA) houses Safari Montage internal to our K-12 network, in the same manner that other ITCs host United Streaming content. Discussion took place about LACA hosting a demo at a future LACATech meeting. The final date decided for the demo was February 10, 2010, as the topic for the next LACATech topic-based meeting.

Unfinished Business

Library Services – New requirements for Sirsi Dynix were handed out. This is not officially supported on Windows 7. It can be installed on Windows 7 and will work with security changes to specific directories. So, it will work, but will not be supported by the vendor or state support for Sirsi, so upgrade to Windows 7 at your own risk. The document also explained the need for administrative rights to be granted on the workstation that checks books in and out. It is required for the software to work and for LACA to get support from the vendor. There are specific user files under the Documents and Settings/<user>/Sirsi on the workstation that the user needs to have access to in order for the software to save their settings. Also, be aware that re-imaging those library machines wipes out all specific settings for users, and this requires LACA staff to connect and rebuild those settings for the librarians.

Remote Assistance – It was noted that the UltraVNC remote assistance tool LACA has been using for the last few years does not work on Vista or Windows 7. LACA has found a version that does, and our "request remote assistance" website now has two links...one for Windows XP/2000 and one for Vista/Windows 7. Teambuilder is another product that would allow remote assistance to a Mac that LACA is experimenting with.

Public Records Policy and Document Management – There will be a public records retention presentation on January 28th at C-TEC for the public records officers, EMIS coordinators, DASL Team Leaders, and Special Ed coordinators from each district. This will start at 10:30am, following the EMIS Coordinators meeting that starts at 8:30am. A legal consultant will be presenting on the legalities surrounding records retention of student data at this meeting.

New Business

LACA Teacher P.D. Offering – A flyer with a list of professional development content offered by LACA was distributed. This content was developed by Jane Galbraith, who works as a Technology Integration Specialist for Newark City Schools as well as part time for LACA. Trish Baker is also developing and delivering content about how to use the INFOhio Electronic Resources, and LACA is now developing and delivering video content to students as well. Topics offered so far by LACA were on Martin Luther King and Presidents Day. This content is free to your schools if you are purchasing video services from LACA. Please let LACA know if you are interested in any of this content.

LACATech Topic Based Meetings – The following dates are reserved for LACATech Topic based meetings:

- February 10, 2010 - Safari Montage Presentation starting at 8:30am.
- April 7, 2010
- June 2, 2010

LACA is open for suggestions for the topics. Please send ideas to network@laca.org.

Upcoming Meeting Dates for LACATech Advisory Committee – Regular LACATech meeting dates for the upcoming FY10 school year will be as follows:

- March 3, 2010
- May 5, 2010

10-15 It was moved by Sally Sperry and seconded by Tim Owen to adjourn the meeting at 10:10am. A unanimous vote of approval was taken.

The next LACATech meeting date is March 3, 2010 at 8:30am.

Reported by,

Chad Carson
Director of Technology, LACA